

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/747,476

Examiner

CUONG H. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

PANELLI, EDWARD J.

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview on 10/16/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1--9, 11-25, 36-49; they are renumbered as claims 1-37 formal drawings are accepted by the examiner.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3661

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the interview on 10/16/2006.

Status of the claims

2. Claims 1-8, 11-25, and 36-50 are pending.

Drawings

3. Formal drawings received on 3/30/2001 are acceptable by the examiner.

Examiner's amendment:

4. The authorization for this amendment was given by Mr. Tait R. Swanson (Register # 48,226) on 10/16/2006. Should the changes be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been agreed to amend as follows:

- Claim 50 is canceled.
- Claim 45 is modified to incorporate a claimed subject matter of claim 50, as shown:

A computer-implemented system, comprising:

a medical imaging workstation selector disposed on a computer-readable medium, wherein the medical imaging workstation selector is configured to obtain customer input from a query page having questions relating to configuration options for a medical imaging workstation;

wherein the medical imaging workstation selector is configured to compare the customer input with data on specific configurations of medical imaging workstations,

wherein the specific configurations are determined, at least in part, by a sales history of specific configurations of medical imaging workstations; and

wherein the medical imaging workstation selector is configured to populate a results page with a specific medical imaging workstation configuration based on the customer input and the data on specific configurations, and

wherein the specific configurations of medical imaging workstations comprise a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, a computed tomography (CT) system, a positron emission tomography (PET) system, a radio fluoroscopy (RF) system, an ultrasound system, or a computed radiography (CR) system, or a combination thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter & Reasons for Allowance

5. Independent claims 1, 15, 38, 44, and 45 are patentable over closest references of Doe et al. (US Pat. 5,224,177), in view of Pinsky et al. (US Pat. 5,655,084), and further in view of Pinsky et al. (US Pat. 5,513,101) because they are not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to teach a computer system coupled to a network to enable a radiological imaging workstation supplier to provide a customer with information for a recommended radiological imaging workstation, the computer system comprising:

an application server to direct a query page to the customer via the network, wherein the query page comprises a plurality of questions designed to enable the computer system to determine a recommended radiological imaging workstation based on the customer's responses to the plurality of questions, the radiological viewing workstation enabling an operator to view images produced by imaging systems of different modalities, further wherein at least one of the plurality of questions establishes the imaging software to be recommended;

a comparison program to receive a completed query page from the customer and compare the customer's responses *in* the completed query page to a plurality of predicted responses to the plurality of questions, a predicted response corresponding to a radiological imaging workstation configuration; and

a server to provide a results page to the customer via the network, the results page providing the customer with a recommended radiological imaging workstation,

wherein the information stored in the computer system is stored in a product configuration file, wherein the product configuration file contains data on specific configurations of radiological imaging workstations,

wherein the specific configurations of radiological image workstations is determined by a sales history of specific configurations of radiological imaging workstations.

Pinsky et al. do not suggest about selling or recommendation of an available radiological imaging workstation on the market to a customer; in contrast, they obtain radiological images from other sources.

Doe et al. do not teach claimed details although they suggest of a CR system can be purchased.

6. Dependent claims 2-8, 11-14, 16-25, 36-37, 39-43, and 46-49 are allowed because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 15, 38, and 45.

Conclusion

7. Claims 1-8, 11-25, 36-49 are patentable.

Claims 13-15 are renumbered as claims 9-10, and 13.

Claims 36-37 are renumbered as claims 14-15.

Claims 38-43 are renumbered as claims 27-32.

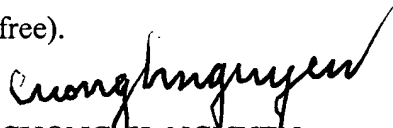
Claim 44 is renumbered as claim 26.

Claims 45-49 are renumbered as claims 33-37.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661